

Covered Species Evaluation Process, Results, and Recommendations

BDCP Steering Committee Meeting
April 3, 2009

Preliminary Draft for Steering Committee Use Only

Evaluation List of Species

Identified “Special-Status Species” that Could be Present in the BDCP Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass

- listed under ESA or CESA
- proposed for listing under ESA
- petitioned for listing under ESA
- candidate for listing under CESA
- California species of special concern
- California fully protected species
- USFWS birds of conservation concern
- NMFS species of concern;
- rare plants under the CNPP Act
- CNPS List 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4 plant species

Evaluation List of Species

(cont.)

Information sources for developing special-status species evaluation list included:

- CNDDDB records for all USGS quadrangles intersecting the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass
- WHR county species lists
- CALFED MSCS species list
- Adjacent and overlapping HCP/NCCP species list
- Fishery Agency species occurrence information
- ISA recommended species

234 species identified on Evaluation List

Criteria for Evaluating Species for Coverage

Evaluated each species for proposed coverage based on 4 criteria:

1. Listing status
2. Occurrence in the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass
3. Potential to be adversely affected by BDCP actions
4. Sufficient species information

Criteria for Evaluating Species (cont.)

Criteria 1. Listing Status

- Federal and State ESA listed species
- Non-listed species considered to have future listing potential if:
 - Proposed (ESA) or candidate (CESA) for listing
 - Populations or habitats are greatly limited and declining
 - Listing petition or packages are anticipated by Fishery Agencies
 - A substantial proportion of species population is in the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass and could be substantially affected by BDCP actions

Criteria for Evaluating Species (cont.)

Criteria 2. Occurrence in the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass

- Known to occur or is likely to occur based on presence of habitat in and known occupied habitat adjacent to the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass

Criteria 3. Potential to be adversely affected by BDCP actions

- The species or its habitat could be present in locations that could be affected by covered activities or conservation measures based on current status of proposed BDCP actions

Criteria for Evaluating Species (cont.)

Criteria 4. Sufficient species information*

- Sufficient scientific information is likely available to assess impacts of BDCP actions on the species and to formulate conservation measures that would effectively mitigate impacts and conserve the species

* this determination is ultimately made by the Permitting Agencies

ISA Terrestrial Report Recommendations

- The ISA recommended 19 additional species for BDCP coverage
- SAIC proposed additions include 8 of these species
- SAIC is not recommending the remaining 11 species for coverage because they do not meet the following criteria:
 - Occurrence in the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass: 3 species
 - Potential to become listed: 5 species
 - Potential to be adversely affected by BDCP actions: 2 species

Note: SAIC is continuing to evaluate 1 plant species (round-leafed filaree)

ISA Terrestrial Report Recommendations (cont.)

- ISA also recommended 3 species be removed from consideration as covered species
- SAIC agreed with not including 2 species
- SAIC proposal includes one of these species (caper-fruited tropidocarpum) as a proposed covered species. Presumed extirpated from the Planning Area, but recommended based on longevity of its seed bank potential presence near Clifton Court Forebay.

Summary of Results

Of the 216 species not recommended for coverage at this time:

- 11 species were excluded on basis of insufficient information
- 103 species are not likely to be present in the Planning Area, Suisun Marsh, or the Yolo Bypass
- 79 species are not currently listed or likely to become listed during the period they might be affected by BDCP actions (23 of these would also not be affected)
- 23 species would not be likely to be adversely affected by BDCP actions.

History of Process

- Evaluated 234 special-status species
- 9 fish species in original list of covered species
- 28 species added to proposed covered species list based on evaluation in May 2008 based on general BDCP description (total 37 covered species)
- 18 additional species recommended by SAIC for coverage based on more detailed BDCP description (total 54 covered species)

Next Steps

- Coordination with Fishery Agencies to confirm application of the potential listing criterion
- For additional proposed covered species
 1. Prepare species accounts including species habitat models
 2. Prepare goals & objectives
 3. Develop conservation measures
 4. Formulate approach to impact analysis
 5. Assess impacts

Questions/Discussion

Preliminary Draft for Steering Committee Use Only